

# **Missouri Department of Corrections**

## Office of Religious/Spiritual Programming



## Prison Ministry and Aftercare Information Guide

1/2010

## The Potency of Faith in the Corrections Module

As humans are complex multi-faceted beings, so are their needs when seeking out significance, value and worth. They are more than the object of a program or the tool of a new initiative. There must be more than conformity and robotic compliance to those who have more power. So it is with the incarcerated person. They are accustomed to going along in order to get along. This perspective only works until the price for non compliance is eclipsed by the delicious fruit of self gratification. With this perspective, no price is too high, no level too low. Many times not even personal shame, loss of one's family, one's marriage or the return to prison can deter this self destructive behavior. But...there is an answer.

Instead of changing the direction by sheer will, the entire operations mechanism must be replaced. This is where the faith component comes into play. Many offenders are eager to re-evaluate faith principals because they realize their self-seeking strategy has failed them miserably. Chapel programs challenge offenders to address the spiritual issues deep inside that they have ignored and denied. The faith community can assist in providing the element of spirituality during and even after incarceration. Ministry to the incarcerated is an exciting and rewarding career ministry.

Why not consider prison chaplaincy where you can be a vital part of meeting significant spiritual needs of what is many times a forgotten mission field? Real ministry to real people . . . People coming to a neighborhood near you!

## Overview

Volunteer Opportunities	Donation Ideas:
<p><u>Counseling</u> Chapel Office, Yard, Housing Units, Altar Worker, Visiting Room, Staff offices</p> <p><u>Group Leadership</u> Study &amp; Discussion Groups, Seminars, Inmate Volunteer projects, Preach, Teach, Supervise, Support, Coordinate or Recruit other volunteers</p> <p><u>Music Ministry</u> Instrumental, Vocal (Choir, Quartets, Solos, Duets, etc), Special programs (concerts, holiday events, etc)</p> <p><u>Drama Ministry</u> Skits, plays, special dramatic programs</p> <p><u>Clerical Ministry</u> Typing, filing, data entry, copying, phone, errands, purchasing, general office supervision</p> <p><u>Presence/Mentoring Ministry</u> Friendship, Moral Support, Food Visits, Family outreach, Accountability, pen-pal ministry, offender group supervision</p> <p><u>Donor Ministry</u> Material items not available through Canteen, but still acceptable and needed (see attached list). Would be donated to the chapel for processing</p> <p><u>Aftercare (ex-offender/parolee)</u> Outside Faith Community Support, employment support, transportation, housing, budgeting, parenting, marriage support, personal faith and accountability</p> <p><u>Institutional Staff Outreach</u> Staff chaplaincy, counseling, faith-based seminars, general support, special recognition/appreciation</p>	<p>❖ Worship Service bulletins</p> <p>❖ Religious magazine subscriptions</p> <p>❖ Religious fiction books</p> <p>❖ Religious tracts, pamphlets</p> <p>❖ Inexpensive devotional type books</p> <p>❖ Wall calendars (inspirational/religious)</p> <p>❖ Sacred texts</p> <p>❖ VHS / DVD (teaching series, inspirational films)</p> <p>❖ CDs (music for personal worship)</p> <p>❖ Pocket Calendars</p> <p>❖ New or nearly new musical equipment</p> <p>❖ Approved, consumable ritual items for holy day observances (Seder plates, Ramadan dates, etc.)</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Please contact your respective chaplain <u>first</u> before making any donations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fully Accommodated Faith Groups</b></p> <p>Al-Islam/Muslim</p> <p>Buddhism</p> <p>Christian-General</p> <p>Christian- Roman Catholic</p> <p>Judaism</p> <p>Messianic</p> <p>Moorish Science Temple of America</p> <p>Nation of Islam</p> <p>Native American</p> <p>Wicca</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Note: Other faiths are accommodated on a solitary practice level.</p>

## **Process to become a Volunteer in Corrections (VIC)**

1. Complete a Volunteer/Intern Application from the Department of Corrections. In the section that asks why you are interested in becoming a volunteer; provide information on a specific service that you can provide. Please specify which Institution or Probation and Parole Office you are applying to. The Volunteer/Intern Application is available at <http://doc.mo.gov/recruit.php>.
2. If you will be representing an organization or religion, include a letter of reference from an official in that organization or religion with the application. A Department Chaplain will be involved in the interview of Religious Volunteers and will determine if there is a Religious Volunteer position available.
3. Send the completed Application and reference letter, if applicable, to the Institutional Activity Coordinator (IAC) at the institution or the Volunteer Coordinator at the Probation and Parole Office where you want to volunteer. Contact information for the institutions and Probation and Parole Offices is located on the Department website at [http://doc.mo.gov/map\\_all.php](http://doc.mo.gov/map_all.php).
4. The IAC or Volunteer Coordinator will review your application, conduct a background check, interview you, conduct a pre-employment drug test and make a recommendation to the Warden or District Administrator regarding your application.
5. Following your interview, if approved, you will be scheduled to attend a one day volunteer training. You will not be admitted to the training unless you have been scheduled in advance for the training by the IAC or Volunteer Coordinator.
6. After successfully completing the training, you will be issued a VIC identification card, screened for TB, and provided orientation to the facility. Your assigned supervisor will establish a work schedule and a job description with you.
7. Welcome to being a Volunteer in Corrections (VIC). We appreciate your willingness to assist in meeting the Department's mission and look forward to working together to provide services to the individuals whom the Department supervises. You will be expected to provide services during the year as scheduled and to remain compliant with annual TB testing, drug screening as requested, and 6 hours per year in-service training.

Questions about Volunteering with the Department of Corrections can be directed to the Supervisor of Volunteer Services at 2729 Plaza Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65102 or by telephone at (573) 526-6491.